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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

8 March 1968

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Warsaw Pact Summit Shortened

Apparently the delegations at the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee meeting, which ended on 7 March in Sofia, agreed to disagree earlier than expected. The meeting was originally scheduled for two days, but because of the late arrival of some delegations on 6 March it was thought that the conference would spill over into 8 March. However, the ceremonial signing of the final documents of the conference took place the evening of 7 March followed by a reception attended by all of the delegations party first secretaries. The communique was to be released today at 0800 EST.

According to Prague Radio the Rumanians maintained their opposition to the proposed Soviet-US treaty on nonproliferation during the Sofia talks. Czech party leader Dubcek reportedly sympathized with the Rumanian point of view, but urged the Rumanians to adopt a more realistic position.

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Gronouski Urges FRG Initiative on Oder-Neisse

Ambassador Gronouski believes that the time has come for Bonn to accept the Oder-Neisse border, and to exert pressure on Gomulka whose domestic and foreign interests are served by perpetuating FRG-bloc frictions.

De facto acceptance of the border, particularly at this time of change in Czechoslovakia and talk of change in Warsaw, would deprive Gomulka of the one issue on which he enjoys popular support, and weaken his case for a close Polish-Soviet alliance. It would strain Polish-GDR ties, and become an issue at the upcoming Polish party congress. Should Gomulka reject such a unilateral FRG move toward Poland, it would look as though he placed Ulbricht's interests above those of Poland.

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COMMENT: Gronouski has long urged the FRG to take this move; two years ago he recommended that the US move in this direction.

We agree that the consequences of such a move for Gomulka would be serious. Should it lead to Gomulka's downfall, however, we do not fully agree, as Gronouski implies, that any successor regime in Poland would inevitably be more Western-oriented, and that it would significantly loosen the Polish-Soviet alliance. Options for a "Rumanian-style" independence do not exist in Poland, either for Gomulka, his predecessors or successors. When Gomulka leaves the scene, over whatever issue, a variety of forces will be set loose in Poland, not all of which will seek goals beneficial to overall US interests in Eastern Europe.

Hungarian Ballet Dancer Decides to Stay in US

Ivan Nagy, a promising young Hungarian ballet dancer visiting the US, has decided not to return to Hungary. Nagy's motivation in defecting apparently is to improve his career. "I need to be seen and judged everywhere," Nagy modestly commented.

Nagy originally entered the US as a guest of Frederick Franklin, the director of the National Ballet in Washington, D.C. Walter Terry, the dance critic of the Saturday Review, disclosed Nagy's intentions to defect in an article which will appear in the March 16 edition of Saturday Review.

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Yugoslav Press Plays Up Rumanian Walkout

The Yugoslav press has given major play to Rumania's abrupt departure from the Budapest conference last week. Editorial comment, which so far has been limited to one article, has been sympathetic to the Rumanians, justifying Bucharest's action on the basis of the equality and independence of parties and the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of other parties. Belgrade also has implicitly

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criticized the Italian party's criticism of the Rumanian's decision to leave the conference. Conversely, the Yugoslavs have welcomed Koucky's statement that the 1960 conference document's criticism of Yugoslavia was "incorrect."

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COMMENT: The proceedings in Budapest will only reinforce the Yugoslavs' belief that they were wise in not going and their thankfulness for not being invited. Belgrade will now believe that its suspicions of Moscow's intention of imposing its will on the communist world through such meetings are fully justified.

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**NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION**

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Rumanian Regime Restricts Contacts with Foreigners

Rumanian authorities are again restricting contacts between Rumanians and foreigners in Rumania. According to a usually reliable source of the US Embassy in Bucharest, regulations embodying these restrictions have been circulating from hand-to-hand for the past several months. However, the campaign to publicize them--including meetings throughout the country--is recent. At one such gathering, a participant asked whether the restrictions applied to contacts with embassies of the "socialist republics" as well. A security officer replied that they especially applied to such contacts, according to the source.

The Embassy additionally notes that rumors of Soviet subversion are circulating in Bucharest.

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COMMENT: If the Rumanian authorities are trying to stir up fears of "socialist," i.e., Soviet, subversion, it would not be the first time. In early 1964, when they were preparing the ground for Bucharest's "declaration of independence" of Moscow, they used the same approach as a device to broaden their base of popular support.

Since deciding to recall its delegation from Budapest, the regime has campaigned to obtain broad endorsement for its decision. Numerous meetings in factories, cooperative farms, and with ethnic minorities have been held, and party chief, Ceausescu, in a highly unusual move, recently met with the heads of the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and other churches in Rumania.

Hanoi Features Anti-US Exhibit at East German Fair

The North Vietnamese exhibit at the Leipzig Spring Fair (3-10 March) includes articles made from downed American planes and sculptures of US pilots begging for mercy. The articles include ashtrays and combs purportedly made from pieces of wreckage from planes shot down over North Vietnam. A small wooden sculpture labelled "American Prisoner" has a small woman pointing a rifle at the head of a large, kneeling man with up-raised hands.

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COMMENT: Asian communists have used the Leipzig Fair as a propaganda forum before. At the outbreak of the cultural revolution in China, Peking loaded its pavilion at the Fair with anti-Soviet literature and was subsequently forced to close by the East German authorities.

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US Trade Mission May Go To Czechoslovakia

The Embassy in Prague has been instructed to approach appropriate Czechoslovak officials with a view to securing a renewed invitation for a US trade mission to Prague next fall or next spring, providing the Czechs show a genuine interest rather than reluctant acceptance.

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COMMENT; Prague had been on the proposed agenda of the US mission which swung through some Balkan countries in 1965 but was washed out because the embassy judged that it would not get a very warm reception.

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Yugoslavs Jail Editor of Religious Paper

The Yugoslavs have sentenced Ivan Cuk, an editor of a religious newspaper in Zagreb, to nine months in prison for his writings on religious societies in socialist countries and national minorities. He was also charged with having falsely presented the character of the Middle East war and the war in Vietnam.

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COMMENT: There has been no indication of Cuk's religious affiliation; however, party authorities in heavily Catholic Slovenia and Croatia have become alarmed at the upsurge in church influence in the last two or three years. The incident may be related to the banning by Croatian officials of the December 1967 issue of Glasnik, a religious monthly published by the Franciscan fathers in Zagreb. Glasnik too offended by implicitly criticizing the regime's stand on the Vietnam war and the treatment of Jews in the USSR.

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